



THE
Endocrinologist

**MIXING WITH
THE MEDIA**
an endocrinologist's experience



PLUS...

**Getting a Grip on
Government**

**Science vs Anti-Science -
Building Bridges**

**Funding from Pharmas:
a Healthy Habit?**

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 Members: Mono - Half page £100 Full page £150
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Deadline for news items for
 the Summer 2001 issue: **23 March 2001**.
 Please send contributions to the above address.

As this Spring issue of *The Endocrinologist* arrives on your desk, we will be looking forward to the annual BES meeting in Belfast (see the centre spread for details). Many of you may not realise that we have to choose the venue some 4 years in advance. Locating the meeting in Belfast was therefore a courageous and very positive decision to make, so long before the Good Friday Agreement. As it turns out, it has proved to be an excellent choice, and I am sure that we will all be beguiled by a city that is regenerating itself to meet the challenges of a new and different future. The Programme Organising Committee has put together a feast of stimulating clinical and scientific debate, with plenary lecturers from around the world. There will be more than enough science in the programme to keep you entertained from early morning until nightfall. However, without doubt, the 'craic' will also be second to none, so you'll need to be very organised to fit everything in! Whilst in Belfast, don't forget to visit one of the most gorgeous pubs in Ireland. 'The Crown Liquor Saloon' on Great Victoria Street is the perfect place for a pint of Guinness and some Strangford Lough oysters - I'll see you there!

At the time of going to press, a Spring election seems likely. As we face the polls, it will be doubly important to reflect on the high profile issues in party manifestos that relate to our profession, including biomedical research, healthcare, animal welfare, and higher education funding. One way that we can directly influence

Government thinking on these issues is through our representation on the Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology. On page 5, Sue Thorn and Malcolm Parker describe the workings of this committee, and how we can use it to alert Government to topics of our concern.

The debate between those who may be considered 'pro-' and 'anti-science' is of interest to all of us as we promote our work to the public. On page 10, Carolyn Cowey attempts to understand the division between the two groups. She suggests that we should develop a more open and realistic means of communicating what we do and what we have achieved. This may be more difficult than one might wish, in this era of achievement-related awards - but the demystification of our work must be something that we all aim for.

Someone who seems to have struck a perfect balance in the media is Mary Forsling, who embraced her 15 minutes of fame late last year with the publication of her work on MDMA or 'ecstasy'. Read how she coped with the pressures of the media's attention to her very interesting work on page 7. And, on page 6, Helen Simpson describes her experiences in communicating science to the public in a very real sense at the new Wellcome Wing of the Science Museum. The involvement of young, informed and enthusiastic endocrinologists with these exhibits is critical in making complex messages accessible to the public, particularly to children. We should all applaud such efforts and encourage similar involvement where we can.

ANN LOGAN

FREE alerting services!

Register online now to receive these free services from the Society

Our **journal services** will send you contents pages upon publication, with hyperlinks to the articles' abstracts on our Web site. Choose any or all of *Journal of Endocrinology*, *Journal of Molecular Endocrinology* and *Endocrine-Related Cancer*.

The Society's news service will advise you of grant information, remind you of abstract deadlines and keep you up to date with Society news, as well as highlighting interesting hormone-related articles in the media.

Simply fill in your email address at www.endocrinology.org/sfe/forms/mailings.htm
 A similar service for *Clinical Endocrinology* is available at www.blackwell-synergy.com

Nurse Nominees Sought

Several members of the Nurse Committee are due to retire shortly, and all Society members are invited to nominate replacements. Any Nurse member who wishes to stand can request that a nomination form is completed by a suitable sponsor. The Committee must contain a balance of adult and paediatric representatives.

A nomination form can be found at www.endocrinology.org/sfe/commit.htm#nur or from Ann Lloyd in the Bristol office. Nominations should be submitted to Ann by 20 April 2001. The Committee will hold a ballot if there are more nominations than vacancies. Watch this space for further announcements.

More headline-hitting hormones!

Enquiries to the Society are ever-increasing. Last year, over 600 calls were received from the public and 120 from the media - compared with 229 and 72 respectively in 1999. Of the public enquiries in 2000, 130 resulted directly from the BBC 'Body Chemistry' series.

The response generated by our press information is very encouraging, as evidenced by the articles and interviews surrounding September's 'Hormones and Sport' conference. *The Sunday Times*, *Times*, *Daily Mail* and *Observer*, as well as Radio 4's 'You and Yours' and Radio 5 Live, covered the event. Several TV news crews also recorded interviews, including Sky News, The Medical Channel and (interestingly) the Tokyo Broadcasting Channel.

New research at the Society's November meeting also captured the media's interest. Work by Mary Forsling *et al.*, Wing-May Kong *et al.*, Jan-Åke Gustafsson and Roger Smith was covered by *The Times*, *Daily Mail*, *New Scientist*, BBC Radio 1 and Radio 5 Live.

New Scientist has recently published an article on Krish Chatterjee's work on St John's Wort (from *Journal of Endocrinology* 166 R11-R16, September 2000). They and others in the scientific press are always looking for new research. If you have anything on the horizon that may be of interest, please contact the Bristol office!

VICTORIA WITTHY

Congratulations...

to **Dr Mark Gurnell** from Cambridge, winner of the 2001 Young Endocrinologists Clinical Review Lecture. His lecture formed part of the Clinical Cases Meeting in London on 12 February.

Remember!

A couple of dates for your diaries...

- **31 March 2001** - Closing date for Marjorie Robinson Fellowship applications
- **15 April 2001** - Next deadline for receipt of Overseas Travel Grant applications

Details of both are available at www.endocrinology.org/sfe/grants.htm or from the Bristol office.

Members on the move...

M Y Alexander to University of Manchester; **C M Amery** to Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham; **E Charmandari** to NICHD, Bethesda; **A M Clarkson** to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Lubbock; **F J P Ebling** to University of Nottingham Medical School; **M Elrishi** to Jessop Hospital, Sheffield; **L Green** to Princess Anne Hospital, Southampton; **A Hanyaloglu** to West Australian Institute for Medical Research, Perth; **K Leong** to Western Hospital, Merseyside; **A Lyakhovich** to Wayne State University, Detroit; **R J McCrimmon** to University Hospital Aintree, Liverpool; **J J Mukherjee** to National University Hospital, Singapore; **B Varghese** to Christie Hospital, Manchester; **J V Woodside** to Institute of Clinical Sciences, Belfast.

SOCIETY CALENDAR

26-29 March 2001
BES 2001
see pages 8 and 9 for details
Waterfront Hall and Hilton Hotel, Belfast

9-13 July 2001
Summer School 2001
Monkbar Hotel, York

13 July 2001
Focus on Endocrinology
see advert on this page
St William's College, York

11-13 September 2001
Endocrine Nurse Training Course
Kelvin Conference Centre, Glasgow

3-4 December 2001
192nd Meeting of the Society for Endocrinology
Royal College of Physicians, London

8-11 April 2002
BES 2002
Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate

NEW SCIENCE EVENT

Focus on
Endocrinology

13 JULY 2001, YORK

Cloning of non-mammalian genes

The Society's first 1-day science forum, focusing on a specialised topic not normally seen at larger conferences.

Further information available from the Bristol office.

Web spinning

Highlighting the best on the Web

History of Biomedicine

www.mic.ki.se/history.html

Slow-loading but worth the wait! Covering an incredible amount of medical history, this site spans from about 400 BC to modern times. It is a truly impressive collection of information, which makes fascinating reading. Users can learn about Hippocrates, read Galen's interpretation of dreams, and hear Florence Nightingale's voice. The efforts that went into putting this together are noteworthy and should be applauded.

SERVICES: L, O (miscellaneous information, audio); STRONG POINTS: Breadth of information; WEAK POINTS: Slow-loading; RATING: Excellent

Endocrine Web

www.endocrineweb.com

A site for patients and their families, rather than scholars. Descriptions of common endocrine disorders and surgery are provided by doctors, with sections on thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and pancreatic disorders (including diabetes and osteoporosis). Coverage spans endocrine disease, conditions, hormone problems and treatment options, including all types of thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal surgery. There are simple diagrams and patient data, such as hormone levels, X-rays, an explanation of technical terms and a whole lot more. Pages are updated at least twice a week. This is a good starting point for patients eager for easily digested information about their condition.

SERVICES: L, O (educational information); STRONG POINTS: Well presented, accessible information; WEAK POINTS: None; RATING: Good

ECME: Environmental Oestrogens and other Hormones

www.tms.tulane.edu/ecme/ehome/

Environmental oestrogens are HOT. Excellently organised, this site presents educational information ('What are environmental oestrogens?'), links, news/views, conference information and research briefs. The eclectic collection of information makes this site of value to scientists and non-scientists alike - very rare for a technical site. Bravo to the creators!

SERVICES: D, L, N, O (up to the minute drug information); STRONG POINTS: Very thorough, well organised; WEAK POINTS: None; RATING: Excellent

Thanks to Kevin Ahern and *Genetic Engineering News*. Don't forget to visit the Society for Endocrinology on the Web: www.endocrinology.org; tell us about your favourite Web site: a.logan@bham.ac.uk

KEY

Services provided at Web sites:

- T Tools - Analytical computing tools
- D Data - Searchable or downloadable database information
- G Goods - FTP delivery of useful items (e.g. full package, bug fix or demo software)
- L Links - Useful links to other sites
- N News - News of interest
- S Support - Feedback in response to users' enquiries
- O Others - e.g. Innovative use of Web tools, appearance, editorial point of view

Ratings: Excellent, Very Good, Good
Nothing below good will be reported here.

BBSRC

The BBSRC has announced the themes and priorities for its scientific committees for 2001. Information can be found at www.bbsrc.ac.uk/science/areas/welcome.html. Members may be particularly interested in 'Integrative biology of endocrine systems in reproduction, growth and development' at www.bbsrc.ac.uk/science/areas/as/priorities/int.html

Science and the Public

Subtitled 'A Review of Science Communication and Public Attitudes to Science in Britain', this report is based on research sponsored by the Office of Science and Technology and the Wellcome Trust. Research mapping the provision of science communication is brought together with investigations into public attitudes to science, engineering and technology. The aim is to initiate a consultation process amongst the science communication community regarding priorities for future activity. Read a summary or download the report at www.wellcome.ac.uk/en/1/mismiscnepub.html

Sorry

The list of Plenary Lecturers in last issue's advertisement for BES 2001 should have read *Eberhard Nieschlag*. The organisers of the BES meeting apologise to Professor Nieschlag for this error.

2002

THE 5th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEUROENDOCRINOLOGY

BRISTOL • UK

31 August -
4 September 2002

Contact Helen Gregson at BioScientifica for details
Tel: 01454-642210 Email: ICN2002@endocrinology.org
Web: www.bioscientifica.com/icn2002.htm

Influencing Parliament

Exerting influence among decision makers is as important now as it ever was. So, as representatives of the Society, we listened with much interest to a recent talk by Dr Michael Clark MP, the Chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology, when he addressed a recent meeting at the Institute of Biology (IOB). Throughout his talk on the workings of the Committee, and the questions that followed, we were impressed by the serious thought he had clearly given to all the issues that were raised.

The House of Commons has 20 Select Committees, with equivalents in the Lords. These Committees are permanent, with a membership which corresponds roughly to the distribution of seats between parties in the House of Commons. The Science and Technology Committee has 11 members, who select their own Chair. Amazingly (or perhaps not?), it is only in very recent years that the Science and Technology Select Committee has consisted mainly of scientists.

We were particularly interested to learn that Select Committees can choose the topics that they wish to investigate. This provides our first opportunity for influence, in that learned societies and organisations such as the IOB and the UK Life Sciences Committee (UKLSC) can propose topics in areas of concern. Once the Committee has chosen a topic, they request written evidence, but will also consider evidence that was not invited. Organisations such as the IOB and UKLSC monitor the Committee's work and ensure that they submit evidence where appropriate.

Witnesses are called once the evidence has been gathered. Between 3 and 15 sessions are held, and it must be daunting to have to field questions from all 11 members for an hour or more. Although one is, strictly speaking, *invited* to appear, the Committee has the option to subpoena if they see fit. We gather they have only resorted to this once, although it has been used as a threat in other cases.

The resulting Select Committee reports are very influential. Because the Committees are free to select their own topics, they can consider not only issues that Government is addressing, but also those that Government has omitted to tackle. The Government is obliged to reply to a Select Committee report within 8 weeks, and this response is also published. Should the Select Committee be unhappy with the Government's reply, they can publish their criticism, and the Government must again reply within 8 weeks. This has apparently been an effective device in countering Government flannel!

The Committee's recent reports have covered dual funding, the UK's efficiency at exploiting inventions, the potential effect of a SmithKline Beecham /Glaxo merger on the UK science base, the decision to locate the Synchrotron project at Oxford, an analysis of scientific advice to Government (looking at studies of GM foods, mobile phones and the DVLA's treatment of diabetics), and cancer research. With plans to review the use of genetic testing by insurers before the next election, the Committee clearly takes a broad view of its science and technology remit.

The Head of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST), Professor David Cope, followed Dr

Clark's address with a more detailed account of the Office's organisation and operation. A further opportunity for influence became apparent when he explained that individuals can 'volunteer' to assist with the preparation of reports on specific topics. These individuals could represent learned societies and might be seconded to POST part-time for a period ranging from weeks to months.

Following this meeting, the Society has provided the Lords and Commons Select Committees on Health and on Science and Technology with details of topics for which we can provide access to expert opinion. Dr Clark has confirmed that this has been actioned by his Committee. We are also monitoring the parliamentary web site to ensure that we keep abreast of topics that the Committees address. Where relevant, we will seek to input either directly or via the IOB or UKLSC.

S THORN
M PARKER

For more about House of Commons Select Committees see

www.parliament.uk/commons/selcom/cmsel.htm

192nd Meeting of the Society for Endocrinology



3-4 December 2001

Royal College of Physicians, London

**with plenary lectures, symposia, debate,
Young Endocrinologists and Nurses sessions,
oral communications and posters**

Further information available in June from the Bristol office

Abstract deadline: 6 August 2001

Not so 'Dopey' Demo!

Demonstrating 'Doping in Sport' in one's lunch hour may seem an unusual challenge. However, that was exactly what the Young Endocrinologists were trying to organise when they emailed me a few months ago. An interest stemming from my involvement in the GH 2000 project on GH doping led me to volunteer, and so I found myself heading off to the new Wellcome Wing at the Science Museum.

The Wing is a fantastic addition. It houses the Antenna Exhibits, which show off exciting developments in science. The display I was involved with, 'Doping in Sport', coincided with the Olympic Games in Sydney and ran for 3-4 months. Other displays were based on topical science stories lasting for just a week.

Craig Brierly from the Antenna Team met me and explained that the aim was to attract people over and talk generally about doping in sport. His plan was to engage their interest by displaying over-the-counter medications and food supplements, and asking them if they knew which ones contained substances that were banned for competing athletes. Luckily I had been primed and was armed with a list of banned substances from the IOC Web page! We set out our props and went off looking for interested punters. It being half term there were mainly families with young children, but also groups of tourists. Our opening line was easy 'Have you been watching the Olympics?' 'Come and guess which tablets are banned for athletes!'. Not exactly a chat-up line, but it seemed to work.

In 2 hours we had over 50 interested people. Discussions varied widely from the athletes that had been banned during the Olympics - including Romanian gymnast Andrea Raducan, who lost her gold medal by taking a cold remedy containing pseudoephedrine - to issues surrounding the recent nandrolone cases. We also discussed the dangers of doping and the availability of new tests. The greatest challenge was interesting an audience which ranged from 5 to 50 years of age, with very differing sporting interests.

There was a consensus that doping was cheating. In our straw poll, none of the children said they would take a drug to improve their sporting performance - which was rather encouraging as data from the USA have suggested that up to 5% of high school students have taken anabolic steroids.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience which I would recommend to anyone. Seeing science well presented in multimedia exhibitions shows that complex ideas can be easily accessible to the general public, and that science can be fun. One of their next displays is on the male contraceptive pill, so I shall go along to learn all about it! In the meantime, I have been given a free pass for the Museum, so I will soon be off to try out all their interactive displays!

HELEN SIMPSON

Visit the Science Museum's Web site at www.sciencemuseum.org.uk



A reply to Mr Pepys...

Stephen O'Rahilly Esq,
Professor of Humoral Physic
University of Cambridge

Samuel Pepys Esq,
Professor of Glands and Fluxes
The Infirmary of St Bartholomew
Hard by the Slaughterhouse
Cheapside

It being concerned with the matter of 'Ye Endocrinologiste',
Christmastide, Year of our Lord, Two Thousand.

My Dear Mr Pepys,

I chanced today upon thy musings in the Aforementioned Organ, and was compelled to take quill to parchment. While I am no stranger to the Pleasures of the Table and Inn, and while my Scientific Enquiries into the corpulence have had some attention from 'Society', I forswore such Lewdness at the Royal College, being cognizant of the Delicacy of the Gentlefolk there present. Instead I declaimed Harrowing Tales of those rendered living skeletons through the abomination known as 'the Resistance to Insuline', not once sketching a portly yeoman for the assembly. I must, therefore, conclude that thou hadst had a Surfeit of Madeira on the Sunday night and, on the next morn, Disported with Morpheus whilst thou should have been Attentive to the Proceedings. If this Grave Offence of thine were to Come to Publick Knowledge, even the Porters and Barrowboys of Smithfield would think thee a Knave and a Coxcomb. However, I know thee to be a Gentle Soul, and thy sentiments regarding my discourse, though bearing little relation to its content, seem suffused with Kindness and good Will. I therefore conclude, not with Chastisement, but with a Heartfelt Reciprocation of Fellow Feeling and remain

Thy sincere Friend
Stephen O'Rahilly

With a copy being sent to Mistress Logan,
Editress, 'Ye Endocrinologiste'

Making an ImPRESSion?

Mary Forsling reflects on her time in the limelight during the recent Society meeting.

Andy Warhol promised me 15 minutes of fame, and I have finally received it! But what is fame? At an early age, my younger daughter declared a desire to be rich and famous. To avoid possible disappointment, I suggested that there were different sorts of fame, pointing out that scientists and doctors achieve some degree of fame through the groups that they teach. She was, however, adamant that fame could only be achieved through the media. So just how does that happen?

It is always gratifying when one's abstract is accepted for a scientific meeting, and so I was pleased when my work was selected as an oral communication for last November's Society meeting. My research centres on modulation of pituitary hormone release by melatonin and gonadal steroids, and I have shown that melatonin and its precursor serotonin influence vasopressin release. My abstract at the meeting concerned 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA or 'ecstasy'), which is believed to act via serotonin. By chance, I had learnt that MDMA could produce water retention, and that this might have led to some of the high profile deaths that have been reported. This hyponatraemia could have resulted from inappropriate vasopressin secretion. Consequently, I collaborated with colleagues from King's College and Imperial College on a pharmacokinetic study centred on MDMA.

We did, indeed, find that MDMA stimulated vasopressin release. Surprisingly, however, during the first couple of hours of the study, plasma vasopressin inversely correlated with MDMA. This might have resulted from the formation of an active metabolite, with the reduced MDMA being associated with greater formation of the metabolite and enhanced vasopressin release. MDMA can be metabolised by two pathways and, with the Drug Control Centre of King's College and the Department of Pharmacy, I looked at the effect of the major metabolite 4-hydroxy-3-methoxymethamphetamine (HMMA) on neurohypophysial hormone release from rat hypothalamic explants *in vitro*. We found that both MDMA and HMMA stimulated vasopressin release, HMMA being the more potent. It was this work that formed the basis of my abstract.

Pleasure at the acceptance of my abstract was followed by great surprise when the Society asked if the results could be included in the meeting's press release - I would be asked to approve the wording. I agreed. I have long been concerned that children acquire much information that they never revisit, and are kept largely ignorant of the way their body functions.

Apprehension only began to kick in when the Society rang with the dates for the press release and to confirm that I would be available to talk to journalists. Oh why hadn't I taken that course on working with the media? But then, as later, Tom at the Society was very reassuring. All calls would go to the Society, and I would never have to give an interview immediately if I felt unprepared. I should also avoid giving personal views on the use of 'ecstasy'. His main advice was to give two or three main points and a take away message.

I put down the phone and worked on the problem. Summarising the work would be relatively easy. The message should be that, while it is important to maintain hydration after taking 'ecstasy', one should not overdo it. This was particularly important for young women, as women of reproductive age are much more likely to suffer serious side effects on developing low plasma sodium.

Nothing was to appear in the press before my presentation at the meeting, but the preceding week was a flurry of activity, with calls from *New Scientist* and *The Times*, *Independent* and *Telegraph*, as well as The Medical Channel (Sky TV's channel for doctors). All the journalists were well informed and helpful. On hearing it was my first interview, Andy Coghlan from *New Scientist* offered to send me a copy of the piece for comment. My confidence grew, and the pieces that appeared gave a fair summary of the topic. Other workers in the field had obviously been consulted so that the reports were well balanced and, furthermore, I was not misquoted.

Rachel Lawson from Radio 1 interviewed me at the meeting. She immediately put me at ease. We had time to go over and adjust the questions beforehand, and I checked how I should pitch my responses. Any sections that I was not happy with were redone. Rachel finally left to interview some ecstasy users. I was impressed with the way the information was presented in the resulting broadcast. Interviews for Radio 5, German TV, Austrian radio and London Metro followed.

The excitement has abated, though emails still trickle in from across the globe. Was this all worthwhile, or just 'hype'? While I was apprehensive at first, I found the experience generally enjoyable. It is hard to say how much impact the message made, but I hope it contributed to the demystification of things medical and scientific. My elder daughter, who only heard the headlines on Radio 1 and so was unaware of my contribution, had discussed the topic with her friends at university. Queries have come from those working on the problem of drugs, both in charities and the police. Hyponatraemia following MDMA ingestion may not be a major problem, but if one person is helped, it will have been worthwhile.

MARY FORSLING





Waterfront Hall and Hilton Hotel

20TH JOINT MEETING OF THE

British Endocrine Societies

26-29 March 2001

Waterfront Hall and Hilton Hotel

Belfast, UK

Come to Belfast, capital city of Northern Ireland, for an outstanding BES meeting! Our superb riverfront venue is set to play host to some of the world's foremost endocrinologists.

We welcome our plenary lecturers from across the USA and Europe. Professor Bruce McEwen from New York is our Dale Medal Lecturer, speaking on 'Stress, individual differences and the social environment'. His compatriot, Professor Bert O'Malley from Houston, will deliver the Transatlantic Medal Lecture - 'Nuclear receptor co-activators: the link to hormone biology'. Travelling to be with us from Amsterdam, Dr Wilmar Wiersinga is set to discuss 'The Janus face of thyroid/amiodarone interactions' in his BTA Pitt-Rivers Lecture. This year's Clinical Endocrinology Trust Visiting Professor is Professor Dr Eberhard Nieschlag from Münster, who will address the issue 'Clinical use of testosterone; how, when and for whom?'. Professor Krish Chatterjee from Cambridge will deliver the Clinical Endocrinology Trust Lecture 'Nuclear receptors and human disease'.

As usual, symposium topics range from fundamental molecular biology through to clinical endocrinology. Clinical management workshops will focus on pregnancy with a fetus at risk of adrenal hyperplasia and tests for use in following-up thyroid disease. Bioinformatics and the post-genome challenge form the basis of our molecular endocrinology workshop. Special sessions will include discussion of the results of an MEN-1 audit and a topical debate on colonic adenomas and carcinomas in acromegaly. The ever-popular 'What would the expert do?' sessions will address adrenal incidentaloma, differentiated thyroid cancer, amenorrhoea, 'difficult' hypokalaemia, sweating and flushing, hyperlipidaemia and hypoglycaemia.

All this, as well as a packed Social Programme and the delights of Belfast to explore, mean you can't afford to miss BES 2001. And why not stay on after the meeting to discover the rest of Northern Ireland, with its world famous golf courses, fishing, walking and hospitality?

Enjoy and participate fully in the scientific, cultural and social events of BES 2001 in Belfast. And remember - reduced registration fees are available for members of any of the BES groups.

Beautiful Belfast

Bustling and vibrant, but with an intimate atmosphere and friendly people, Belfast is a thriving city, attracting £200 million investment in recent years. Its excellent shopping area and nightlife, including restaurants, cinemas, clubs and pubs are within easy reach of delegates at BES 2001. The superbly designed Waterfront Hall conference venue has state-of-the-art facilities, with some sessions taking place in the adjacent 5-star Hilton Hotel. The venue can easily be reached by air, ferry, train or motorway - enjoy the special BES air and ferry deals!



SOCIAL EVENTS

MONDAY

BES Golf Tournament, at Royal Belfast, on the shores of Belfast Lough

Opening Reception at the Waterfront Hall

Young Endocrinologists Evening at *The Edge* - a great meal followed by a top DJ

TUESDAY

Irish Night at Belfast Castle - an informal evening's 'craic' with traditional Irish fayre and music

WEDNESDAY

BES Banquet at the historic City Hall - dinner to the sound of madrigals, then dance into the night to a live band!

Further details from Helen Gregson or Jo Heisse
BES, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands,
Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK
Tel: +44-1454-642210; Fax: +44-1454-642222;
Email: helen.gregson@endocrinology.org; jo.heisse@endocrinology.org
Web: www.endocrinology.org/sfe/confs.htm



HIGH PROFILE PLENARY LECTURERS:

Bruce McEwen 'Stress, individual differences and the social environment'

Bert O'Malley 'Nuclear receptor co-activators: the link to hormone biology'

Wilmar Wiersinga 'The Janus face of thyroid/amiodarone interactions'

Eberhard Nieschlag 'Clinical use of testosterone: how, when and for whom?'

Krish Chatterjee 'Nuclear receptors and human disease'

Wide-ranging symposia:

Signalling through growth factor receptors

Diabetes insipidus and non-functioning pituitary tumours

Orphan nuclear receptors

Thyroidal and extrathyroidal iodide uptake

Hormones and memory

Male osteoporosis

Hypothalamic circuits in energy regulation

Key workshops:

Pregnancy with a fetus at risk of congenital adrenal hyperplasia

Follow-up of thyroid disease

Bioinformatics and the post-genome challenge

Oral communications:

Molecular endocrinology (two sessions)

Neuroendocrinology

Tumorigenesis

Metabolism

Vascular endocrinology

Plus:

Special sessions on MEN-1 and colonic tumours in acromegaly

Events for Nurses and Young Endocrinologists

See the experts take on adrenal incidentaloma, differentiated thyroid cancer, amenorrhoea, 'difficult' hypokalaemia, sweating and flushing, hyperlipidaemia and hypoglycaemia in 'What would the Expert do?'

Bridging the Gap

In 1959, CP Snow highlighted the division between science and the humanities in his essay 'The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution'. Over 40 years later, tensions between the two do not seem to have subsided. But is the 'anti-science' label really deserved by those who bear it? And does the approach adopted by scientists warrant criticism?

Perhaps the most notable recent victim of anti-science labelling has been the Prince of Wales. His Reith lecture attacking the 'impenetrable layers of scientific rationalism' which smother man's 'duty of stewardship of the earth' and lead us to regard nature as something which can be 'engineered for our own convenience or as a nuisance to be evaded and manipulated' led to an outpouring of criticism from both scientists and MPs. One Labour MP attributed the Prince's views to 'green mysticism'. Another spoke out on the Prince's 'anti-science' viewpoint, though he subsequently noted that scientific knowledge 'must be divulged in an open participative society' - presumably society can have its say, if it's in favour of science! Jonathon Porritt remarked 'although one or two have sought to engage constructively, most have chosen to fire off contemptuous tirades spiked with personal insult and patronising pity for the intellectual pygmies who dare to challenge their authority. They assume that any such challenge could only come from people corrupted by soapy emotionalism with a deep hostility to science itself'. Peter Melchett, executive director of Greenpeace, said that 'it is wrong to see this debate as pro- or anti-science - legitimate concerns about possible application of new scientific knowledge are shared by many scientists'.

Creation scientists have also been tarred with the 'anti-science' brush, even though the Institute for Creation Research in San Diego employs eight full-time researchers who attempt to prove the stories of the Bible by experimentation. Feminists, too, have gained the label, despite beneficial effects of their movement that may include the increase in women receiving PhDs from 6% in 1970 to 25% in 1995, and the eventual inclusion of women in clinical trials. Evelyn Fox Keller, a theoretical physicist, has examined how traditional ideologies of gender entered science through metaphors. Rational thinking, for example, is viewed as a masculine trait, while intuition is feminine. She claims that traits labelled feminine are often undervalued. Karen Barad, a physicist and philosopher of science, has said that traditional presentations of quantum mechanics 'overlook a more interpretive mode of thinking in favour of brute calculations'. While scientists may not consciously avoid a 'feminist' approach to maintain 'masculinity', culture may well influence science and scientists.

So what, then, lies at the root of the divide, and can it be to blame for the public distrust of science? Pinch and Collins, in *The Golem: what everyone should know about Science*, state 'the overwhelming claims to authority of many scientists and technologists are offensive and unjustified, but the likely reaction, born of failed promises, might precipitate a still worse anti-scientific movement'. Jonathan Dimpleby denied that Prince Charles is anti-science, saying instead that he has a 'healthy disrespect for what he sees as scientific arrogance'. Bob Shapiro, head of Monsanto, accepted personal blame for the poor global image of biotechnology. He admitted that his attempt to convince people of its value, while denouncing those with different points of view, has led to irritation rather than persuasion. In announcing an intention to consult more with society, he added that 'the vast majority are not anti-science, or Luddite. But they are increasingly aware and mistrustful of the combination of big science and big business'.

The Global Environmental Change Programme (GECPC) calls for 'a new style of governance in which scientific evidence plays an important but not dominant role. Public values should inform the questions asked by the science rather than being addressed as a token "add on". They have identified that people are learning from experience that science cannot provide definitive answers about safety (e.g. BSE, GM foods). The President of the Foundation on Economic Trends in Washington

has said that falling support for genetic engineering is due to uncertainty rather than panic. This may reflect the press, which appears wary, but not anti-science, reporting both the successes and failures of cloning.

In contrast to the GECPC, Lewis Wolpert (Chairman of the Committee on the Public Understanding of Science) is opposed to increased public participation in science policy. He has said 'you can't have the public deciding whether to spend money on physics or astronomy ... I don't think that the public cares'. Brian Wynne (Research Director of the Centre for the Study of Environmental Change) has questioned whether it is 'reasonable to expect science to determine whether society commits to the technological and social trajectory of GM agriculture and foods', bearing in mind the unforeseen consequences which could arise despite rigorous

trials. Professor Wilmot, from the team that cloned 'Dolly the sheep', said that there is a 'danger of missing scientific opportunities because of public fears and misunderstandings - research projects should continue to be innovative and

ambitious ... but we must deal with the public's concerns in order to get their support ... society, through informed public opinion should provide a framework for these decisions'.

It appears that to earn the public's trust, scientists will need to stop making 'anti-science' accusations against those who dare question them, and to develop a more open means of communicating what is known and not known. One billion pounds has been earmarked to 'stem the brain drain'; let us hope that it will be used wisely, and will enable science to regain some credibility. As Pinch and Collins concluded, 'Claim too much for science and an unacceptable reaction is invited. Claim what can be delivered and scientific expertise will be valued or distrusted, utilised or ignored, not in an unstable way but just as with any other social institution'.

CAROLYN COWEY

'Does the approach adopted by scientists warrant criticism?'

Health, Wealth and Happiness...?

It's late in the evening, and Dr Rhys Eppter has found his old friend Professor Sir Humphrey Lyggande, reclining in an armchair in the lounge of the Radical SOS Hotel, Toronto. They haven't met for several months, so it's a good opportunity to catch up and indulge in some agreeable debate over a cool Canadian beer.

RE: Hallo, Humphrey, it's good to see you again. Isn't it excellent to be here, enjoying some great science in a great city? It makes the ups and downs of research worthwhile.

HL: It's a real privilege isn't it? Not many people have jobs that let them do this; I feel very fortunate. So how's life in the world of Rhys Eppter research?

RE: Not so bad I suppose, though the next source of funding always preys on my mind. It's a constant battle for grants isn't it? And the overall success rate is so low that you wonder how you can possibly remain funded for your entire career.

HL: You haven't done so badly have you? The overall funding rate may be low, but, if one's work is high quality and imaginative, there's a fairly good chance of staying funded. Isn't it a *good* thing that it's hard to win charity or taxpayers' money for research? And because it's so competitive, it stimulates people to be ambitious in their work plans.

RE: What really bothers me is how some sources fund work much more easily than others. The funding rate of research charities varies from 10 to 50%, so in some fields you actually have to try hard *not* to get funded. Commercial sources are even better if you happen to be interested in the right hormone: how about the multinationals that make Zoom hormone? There's been an explosion in that area recently, nearly all of it funded by Wunda-Pharm or their rivals Zoomtech and LucraBio. Look at the Zoom abstracts at this meeting - there are so many of them, don't tell me that all those projects were subject to project grant competition with a funding rate of 10%!

HL: You're bitter and twisted tonight! I accept that Zoom research has benefited from a commercial drive, but it's opened up a whole new field of endocrinology. We know much more about Zoom's receptors and their intracellular signalling, and we can now treat the deficiency disease.

Patients have genuinely gained something. Drug development is very expensive, and needs a tremendous network of committed clinical investigators doing their honest best to advance a therapeutic innovation. Just because the source of this initiative is commercial, you're dismissing the whole enterprise as worthless or devalued.

RE: Of course you're right, but I still have serious reservations about the whole area of pharma funding and bioscience. I think it skews our research base towards topics that offer commercial opportunities, and at worst it erodes standards of scientific competitiveness.

HL: You can't really justify that last point at all. Serious science is published in peer-reviewed journals, not in commercially sponsored supplements, and we have a good system of self-critical refereeing that keeps standards high.

RE: Well, there's plenty to discuss about peer review isn't there! But even if we accept that it's as fair as it can be, I worry that there's a risk of uncritical reviewing. Let's imagine a journal editor receiving a very specialist paper on Zoom hormone. It doesn't state the source of funding, but a few of us suspect that Zoomtech pays three of the salaries plus consultancy fees. Who should review it? An anonymous referee of course, but it needs to be someone who works in the right field. Dr X is good - I wonder who funds his research? Surprise surprise, it's Wunda-Pharm! What a cosy world!

HL: But hold it! You're making a serious allegation that pharma funding actually corrupts people's critical judgement. Why should this be so different from other communities of scientists peer-reviewing each other's work? Of course the people involved share similar funding sources along with similar scientific interests, but that's all part of any civilised system of honest and impartial self-criticism and peer review. You have to trust your colleagues more than this. After all, the

whole enterprise of scientific research is built on trust. You don't really have any evidence that the source of funding harms the outcome. In fact, it's the reverse - I think bioscience has gained a lot from the energy and drive of commercial drug development.

RE: There's something in what you say. But we have arrived at a peculiar system of funding, and we have to be alert to the risks of being led by the nose by commercial goals, and ignoring very important issues simply because they're of no interest to the drug industry.

HL: I agree that some work is easier to fund, and it doesn't seem very just. And of course all it takes is a celebrity with a fleeting interest in a disease to direct millions of pounds into some arbitrarily chosen charity. It's inevitable that fashionable and emotive subjects will get funding. And who ever said that science funding was going to be entirely fair!

Is Dr E right to be bothered, or is it a case of sour glands? Was Sir Humphrey lulled by jet-lag and alcohol into mere acquiescence with the status quo, or is he taking a wise long view of life? Emails and letters welcome, for publication in the next issue.

Hormone Group

Nominations Sought!

Please send your nominations to fill three vacancies on the Group's Committee

Society members should

- send their suggestions to PooleyL@hri.sari.ac.uk
- with a brief description of their research interests, and
- the names of two supporting members of either the Society for Endocrinology or the Biochemical Society

The Hormone Group's new Chairman and Secretary from January 2001 are **Iain McEwan** and **Linda Pooley**.

More reports from members who attended recent conferences with support from the Society.

191st Meeting of the Society for Endocrinology

London, 20-21 November 2000

"The neuroendocrinology and pituitary session related best to my own research interests, and contained many interesting studies. Dr Kong's talk on manipulation of hypothalamic neuropeptide Y expression by gene transfer and its effect on weight gain and energy expenditure was particularly noteworthy. Other highlights included an opportunity for debate on testosterone replacement and the treatment of acromegaly, and an excellent talk by Roger Smith on CRH and human pregnancy."

ANDREA NORRIS

"My honours project concerns prolactin receptors in neonatal lambs, and presentations on 'The human embryo, cell death and embryonic loss before implantation', 'Growth hormone and prolactin in preimplantation physiology' and 'Prolactin signalling pathways in the human endometrium' were particularly of interest to me. As an undergraduate, a basic summary of the material covered in each session would have enhanced my understanding of the content."

ELIZABETH GENEVER

"The symposium on the pre-implantation environment and embryo health was particularly interesting and beneficial, especially the presentation by Kate Hardy on 'The human embryo, cell death and embryonic loss before implantation'. My project involves maternal nutrition during mid-pregnancy in sheep, so I was interested to find out more about pre-implantation of embryos and embryo loss. The symposium on the EGF superfamily of receptors and the oral communication session on receptors, cell signalling and regulatory peptides were also very interesting, especially J Mendelsohn's presentation on inhibition of EGF receptors in anti-cancer therapy"

EMMA HUGHES

"Steve O'Rahilly's lecture on obesity and insulin resistance was very useful, as it put insulin into context for me, and illustrated the disorders that I have read about in researching the link between insulin and obesity. The symposium on embryonic health and potential markers for adult disease was also useful for my research, as was the session on steroids. The Asia and Oceania medal lecture on CRH by Roger Smith was extremely interesting and provided an insight into this hormone's action in pregnancy. By far the most valuable session for me was the poster session. I presented data on cortisol rhythms in sheep and had great feedback and interest in our work, which may have provided me with some pointers for the future analysis of that data."

JENNIFER DANDREA

"My particular research interest is the GnRH receptor, a G-protein coupled receptor located in the anterior pituitary which controls the reproductive endocrine pathway, so the most relevant sessions for me were 'Neuroendocrinology and the pituitary' and 'Receptors, cell signalling and regulatory peptides'. The symposium on the pre-implantation environment and embryo health was also useful, as my research should be set in its wider context of reproductive health. The lecture which stood out among the rest was 'The EGF receptor as central element of the cellular signal transduction network' presented by Axel Ullrich. As my research is into GPCRs, I was very interested in the idea of GPCRs transactivating or modulating other types of membrane-bound receptor."

KEVIN PFLEGER

11th International Congress of Endocrinology

Sydney, 29 October-2 November 2000

"International investigators covered a wide range of current topics at the forefront of endocrinology. This was particularly notable in my interest areas of intracellular signalling mechanisms, growth and uncoupling proteins. I presented posters on prolactin and its receptor in perirenal adipose tissue of newborn lambs and the effects of maternal nutrition on placental size and plasma prolactin, and enjoyed the considerable attention that they received throughout the poster session. These discussions have already resulted in a number of new international collaborative projects. As a result of attending the congress I was invited to give an oral presentation at the satellite meeting on fetal endocrinology and development in Adelaide. This meeting focused on fetal origins of adult disease, and placental and fetal interactions, and allowed the opportunity for personal research discussions with leaders in fetal endocrinology."

HELEN BUDGE

30th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience

New Orleans, 4-9 November 2000

"This conference enabled me to view work spanning a wide range of disciplines, to make an unexpected link with a possible collaborator and to meet potential postdoctoral supervisors from both North America and Europe. My poster, entitled 'Involvement of the pars tuberalis in seasonal prolactin mRNA regulation in the male Syrian hamster', attracted much interest and was well received. It provided me with an opportunity to enter into discussions with a range of scientists, many of whom I would not otherwise have met. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and left New Orleans with more confidence, new contacts and a great deal of enthusiasm for science."

JD JOHNSTON

BES 2002

21ST JOINT MEETING OF THE

British Endocrine Societies

Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate, UK
8-11 April 2002

Preliminary programme available September 2001
Further details available from the Bristol office



Hot Topics

Highlights from the Society's journals, chosen by Carolyn Cowey. Remember that you can view the abstracts free at www.endocrinology.org!

Oestrogen, GH and IGF in male osteoporosis

An astonishing 1 in 12 Western men suffer from osteoporosis, with roughly a third having male idiopathic osteoporosis (MIO). Byers and colleagues have reviewed mechanisms of skeletal regulation that could be specific to men, and might indicate potential treatments for MIO, or ways of detecting those at risk. Oestrogen, which maintains bone mineral density (BMD) and skeletal structure in women, is found to be significantly reduced in some MIO patients when compared with controls (though still within the normal range). A slight decrease in oestrogen may therefore be enough to reduce BMD. Some MIO patients, with normal oestrogen levels, may have defective oestrogen receptor (ER) expression, so impairing the bone cells' responses to oestrogen. However, some men with relatively low oestrogen levels have normal BMD and fail to develop osteoporosis, indicating that other factors are involved. Osteoblast differentiation, essential to the development and maintenance of the normal skeleton, is stimulated by GH *in vivo*. GH-dependent IGF-BP is an important determinant of bone mass, which, if low, can result in osteoporosis in later life, and there is a positive correlation between IGF-I and BMD, both specific to men. So polymorphisms of genes for ERs, GH and IGF-I may help predict osteoporosis, and may be male-specific. Investigating the ways in which GH and IGF-I regulate osteoblast differentiation, and the actions of oestrogen, GH and IGF-I on bone in men, could reveal determinants specific to male osteoporosis and provide the basis for treatment of MIO.

(See the full article in *Journal of Endocrinology* **168**(3), March 2001)

Advances in parathyroid exploration

Hyperparathyroidism is the most common cause of hypercalcaemia. In 80-90% of cases, it is caused by parathyroid tumours, and so is treated by parathyroidectomy. Bilateral neck explorations have now generally been replaced by unilateral exploration and minimally invasive endoscopic or radioguided parathyroidectomies. In this study, Lumachi and colleagues tested non-invasive preoperative localisation techniques on patients with hyperparathyroidism caused by parathyroid tumours. Their aim was to identify the most accurate non-invasive technique for tumour detection, with a view to reducing patient operation time, morbidity and hospital stay through facilitated parathyroidectomy. ^{99m}Tc -sestamibi/ ^{99m}Tc -pertechnetate subtraction scintigraphy (MPS) was the most sensitive technique, and was not influenced by patient age or gland size. The researchers therefore recommend its use as the initial preoperative localisation procedure. A combination of MPS and ultrasonography was most reliable; if these techniques are unsuccessful, the authors recommend bilateral neck exploration.

(See the full article in *Endocrine-Related Cancer* **8**(1), March 2001)

Mid-luteal role for VEGF

Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) is necessary for the onset of corpus luteum (CL) formation. The CL secretes progesterone, which, amongst other things, helps prepare the endometrium for pregnancy. Earlier studies have examined prevention of angiogenesis by VEGF inhibition in the early-luteal phase, before luteal angiogenesis has begun. Dickson and colleagues have now investigated VEGF's role during the mid-luteal phase, by administering anti-VEGF to marmoset monkeys. They found that VEGF is essential for luteal angiogenesis, even when the process has already begun, and that inhibition of VEGF suppresses CL function. The expression of VEGF was high even in the mid-luteal phase when angiogenesis is less intense, suggesting that it may have some other function, such as mediation of endothelial cell survival or regulation of the CL's vascular permeability. Reduced permeability would have a detrimental effect on the release of progesterone, and may explain the rapid decline in plasma progesterone immediately after anti-VEGF treatment. Treatment also caused increased apoptosis in endothelial cells. The authors suggest that this is a consequence of lack of VEGF support to susceptible, immature blood vessels in the CL that have no associated pericytes, and that more research into the role of VEGF in pericyte recruitment is required. They conclude that VEGF manipulation may be clinically important in treating early pregnancy loss or interruption.

(See the full article in *Journal of Endocrinology* **168**(3), March 2001)

Proprotein convertases in breast cancer

Human lung and breast cancers have been found to show increased expression of proprotein convertases, which activate growth factors and receptors. Cheng and colleagues investigated the biological functions of these enzymes in human breast cancer by using gene transfection to generate MCF-7 cells that overexpressed proprotein convertase, and then assessing their responses to oestrogen and the anti-oestrogen tamoxifen. Contrary to expectations, the transfected cells needed more oestradiol for maximum growth than control cells, suggesting that overexpression of proprotein convertase makes breast cancer tumours more oestrogen-dependent. Experiments in mice implanted with tamoxifen pellets revealed that the transfected tumours regressed more slowly than in controls, suggesting that the excess convertase made the breast cancer cells more tamoxifen-resistant. The authors suspect that overproduction of convertase affects the activities of co-activators or co-repressors of oestrogen receptor function (i.e. gene and cellular functions such as those involved in cell proliferation and tumour regression). Alternatively, the signal transduction pathways may have been impacted, so altering oestrogen receptor function. They suggest that proprotein convertases could be indicators of breast cancers with high oestrogen dependency and anti-oestrogen resistance.

(See the full article in *Journal of Molecular Endocrinology* **26**(2), April 2001)

Preventive Care for the Menopausal Generation: Focus on Skeletal and Cardiovascular Disease

Naples, FL, USA, 1-3 March 2001.
Contact: Registrar, ASRM, 1209 Montgomery Highway, Birmingham, AL 35216-2809, USA (Tel: +1-205-9785000; Fax: +1-205-9785005; Email: asrm@asrm.org; Web: <http://www.asrm.org/Professionals/Meetings/pgcourse.html>).

1st Asian ISSAM Meeting on the Aging Male

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 1-4 March 2001.
Contact: Yenli Lim, Conference Manager, 1st Asian ISSAM Meeting, c/o Subang Jaya Medical Centre, 1 Jalan SS12/1A, Subang Jaya, 47500 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia (Tel: +603-730-6570; Fax: +603-730-6571; Email: ilney@tm.net.my; Web: <http://www.apsir.org>).

Introduction to Molecular and Cellular Research

Wyndham Miami Biscayne Bay, FL, USA, 2-5 March 2001.
Contact: Tel: +1-888-3636274; Email: ahall@endo-society.org; Web: <http://www.endo-society.org/scintgts/scipub.htm>).

1st International Conference on the Genetics of Bone Disease

Davos, Switzerland, 17-21 March 2001.
Contact: Janet Crompton, The Old White Hart, North Nibley, Dursley GL11 6DS, UK (Tel: +44-1453-549919; Fax: +44-1453-548919; Email: janetcrompton@compuserve.com; Web: <http://www.janet-crompton.com/genbone2001>).

British Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology Annual Meeting

London, UK, 19 March 2001.
Contact: R Stanhope, Institute of Child Health, Biochemistry, Endocrinology and Metabolism Unit, University College London, 30 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1EH, UK (Tel: +44-20-79052159; Fax: +44-20-74046191).

BES 2001 - 20th Joint Meeting of the British Endocrine Societies

Belfast, UK, 26-29 March 2001.
Contact: British Endocrine Societies, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org; Web: <http://www.endocrinology.org>).

4th International Symposium on Angiotensin II Antagonism

London, UK, 3-5 April 2001.
Contact: Secretariat, Hampton Medical Conferences Ltd, 127 High Street, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 8HH, UK (Tel: +44-20-89770011; Fax: +44-20-89770055; Email: AIIA@hamptonmedical.com).

673rd Biochemical Society Meeting: Molecular Communications

Bristol, UK, 10-12 April 2001.
Contact: The Meetings Office, Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place, London W1B 1QW, UK (Tel: +44-20-75803481; Fax: +44-20-76377626; Email: meetings@biochemistry.org; Web: <http://www.biochemistry.org/meetings>).

11th International Conference on Second Messengers and Phosphoproteins

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, 22-26 April 2001.
Contact: Email: email@secondmessengers.com; Web: <http://www.secondmessengers.com>.

12th International Workshop on the Development and Function of the Reproductive Organs

Jerusalem, Israel, 30 April-3 May 2001.
Contact: Secretariat, Dan Knassim Ltd, PO Box 1931, Ramat Gan 52118, Israel (Tel: +972-3-6133340 ext 208; Fax: +972-3-6133341; Email: team2@congress.co.il).

30th Session of the Advanced Course on Biology and Biochemistry of Normal and Cancer Cell Growth: Classical and Non-Classical Issues from Prevention to Treatment of Hormone-Related Tumours

Sicily, Italy, 1-6 May 2001.
Contact: Prof. L Castagnetta (Fax: +39-091-666435; Email: lucashbl@unipa.it).

11th Annual Meeting of the European Neuropeptides Club and American Summer Neuropeptides Conference

Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Israel, 7-12 May 2001.
Contact: Illana Gozes, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv 69978, Israel (Tel: +972-3-6407240; Fax: +972-3-6408541; Email: igozes@post.tau.ac.il or meeting@unitours.co.il).

International Conference: The Consequences in Adult Age of Endocrine Diseases in Childhood

Thessaloniki, Greece, 10-12 May 2001.
Contact: Prof GE Krassas, Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Panagia Hospital, 22 N Plastira Str., N Krini, GR-55132 Thessaloniki, Greece (Tel: +30-31-447444; Fax: +30-31-282476; Email: krassas@the.forthnet.gr; Web: <http://www.ibow.com/efes2001>).

9th International Meeting of the Psychoneuroimmunology Research Society: 'Psychoneuroimmunology: Molecules to Disease Models'

Utrecht, The Netherlands, 16-19 May 2001.
Contact: Virginia Sanders (Email: pnirs@pnirs.org; Web: <http://www.pnirs.org>).

44ème Journées Internationales d'Endocrinologie Clinique: Obesity: Come-back to Endocrinology

Paris, France, 17-18 May 2001.
Contact: Dr G Copinschi, Laboratory of Experimental Medicine, Brussels Free University, CP 618, 808 Route de Lennik, B-1070 Brussels, Belgium (Fax: +32-2-5556239).

Glasgow Symposium on Endocrinology and The Fleming Lecture

Glasgow, UK, 24-25 May 2001.
Contact: Mrs Margaret Cooper, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 232-242 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5RJ, UK (Tel: +44-141-2273236; Email: mgt.cooper@rcpsglas.ac.uk).

14th International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology

Sorrento, Italy, 26-30 May 2001.
Contact: Studiocongressi, Via S Anna dei Lombardi 38, 80134 Napoli, Italy (Tel: +39-081-5511668; Fax: +39-081-5528835; Email: studiocongressi@napoli.com; Web: <http://www.napoli.com/studiocongressi>).

IBMS-ECTS Satellite Meeting on Comparative Endocrinology of Calcium Regulation

Madrid, Spain, 5 June 2001.
Contact: Dr Janine Danks, St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research, 41 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy 3065, Australia (Tel: +61-3-92882594; Fax: +61-3-94162676; Email: j.danks@medicine.unimelb.edu.au).

1st Joint Meeting of the International Bone and Mineral Society and European Calcified Tissue Society

Madrid, Spain, 5-10 June 2001.
Contact: Aurelio Rapado, Chair Local Organising Committee, c/o Tileasa OPC, SL Londres 17, 28028 Madrid, Spain (Tel: +34-91-3612600; Fax: +34-91-3559208; Email: IBMS-ECTS2001@tileasa.es; Web: <http://www.intercongres-2001.com>).

5th International Workshop on Resistance to Thyroid Hormone

Verbania, Italy, 6-8 June 2001.
Contact: Prof. Paolo Beck-Peccoz, Institute of Endocrine Sciences, Ospedale Maggiore IRCCS, Via F Sforza 35, 20122 Milan, Italy (Fax: +39-02-55195438; Email: endosci@mailserver.unimi.it; Web: <http://www.infinito.it/utenti/endocrinology>).

21st Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology

Chicago, IL, USA, 9-12 June 2001.
Contact: Joanne YH Kwak-Kim, Finch University of Health Sciences/The Chicago Medical School, 3333 Green Bay Road, North Chicago, IL 60064, USA (Tel: +1-847-5788767; Fax: +1-847-5788572; Email: kwaki@finchcms.edu; Web: <http://www.theasri.org>).

5th European Congress of Endocrinology

Turin, Italy, 9-13 June 2001.
Contact: CCI Centro Congressi Internazionale - Via Cervino, 60-10155 Torino, Italy (Tel: +39-011-2446921; Fax: +39-011-2446900; Email: efes2001@ibow.com; Web: <http://www.ibow.com/efes2001>).

EULAR 2001: Annual European Congress of Rheumatology

Prague, Czech Republic, 13-16 June 2001.
Contact: Tel: +41-1-3839690; Fax: +41-1-3839810; Email: eular@bluewin.ch.

7th International Congress of Andrology

Montreal, Québec, Canada, 15-19 June 2001.

ENDO 2001: 83rd Annual Meeting

Colorado, USA, 20-23 June 2001.
Contact: Beverly Glover, Administrative Assistant, Meetings, The Endocrine Society, 4350 East West Highway, Suite 500, Bethesda, MD 20814-4410, USA (Tel: +1-301-9410220; Fax: +1-301-9410259).

Bone and Tooth Society Meeting

Warwick, UK, 4-5 July 2001.
Contact: Janet Crompton, The Old White Hart, North Nibley, Dursley GL11 6DS, UK (Tel: +44-1453-549929; Fax: +44-1453-548919; Email: janetcrompton@compuserve.com; Web: <http://www.janet-crompton.com>).

Pediatric Endocrinology 2001

Montréal, Canada, 6-10 July 2001.
Contact: PedEndo Secretariat, 1110 Pine Avenue West, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3A 1A3 (Tel: +1-514-3983770; Fax: +1-514-3984854; Email: pedendo@ums1.ian.mcgill.ca; Web: <http://www.med.mcgill.ca/pedendo>).

Society for Endocrinology Young Endocrinologists Introductory Day at Summer School 2001

York, UK, 9 July 2001.
Contact: Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org).

Society for Endocrinology Molecular Endocrinology Workshop at Summer School 2001

York, UK, 10 July 2001.
Contact: Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org).

Society for Endocrinology Advanced Endocrine Course at Summer School 2001

York, UK, 11-12 July 2001.
Contact: Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org).

Society for Endocrinology Clinical Practice Day at Summer School 2001

York, UK, 13 July 2001.
Contact: Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org).

29th British Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Birmingham, UK, 10-13 July 2001.
Contact: BCOG Secretariat, Congress House, 65 West Drive, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey SM2 7NB, UK (Tel: +44-20-86610877; Fax: +44-20-86619036; Email: info@conforg.com).

Society for Endocrinology Focus on Endocrinology: Cloning of Non-Mammalian Genes

York, UK, 13 July 2001.
Contact: Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org).

Recent Progress in Hormone Research

Washington, DC, USA, 4-8 August 2001.
 Contact: Beverly Glover, Administrative Assistant, Meetings, The Endocrine Society, 4350 East West Highway, Suite 500, Bethesda, MD 20814-4410, USA (Tel: +1-301-9410220; Fax: +1-301-9410259).

Satellite of the 34th International

Congress of Physiological Sciences: Actions and Interactions at the Pituitary
 Christchurch, New Zealand, 24-25 August 2001.
 Contact: Dr J Evans, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Christchurch School of Medicine, Private Bag 4711, Christchurch, New Zealand (Tel: +64-3-3644642; Fax: +64-3-3644634; Email: john.evans@chmeds.ac.nz; Web: http://www.chmeds.ac.nz/news_releases/pituitarysatellite.htm).

27th Meeting of the European Thyroid Association

Warsaw, Poland, 25-29 August 2001.
 Contact: Prof. Janusz Nauman, Department of Endocrinology, Medical University of Warsaw, Banacha 1A, 02-097, Warsaw, Poland (Tel/Fax: +48-22-6597562; Email: janu@amwaw.edu.pl; Web: <http://www.amwaw.edu.pl/eta>).

20th International League of Associations for Rheumatology World Congress

Edmonton, Canada, 26-31 August 2001.
 Contact: Tel: +1-905-2733080; Fax: +1-905-27323611; Email: healthcarecomm@sympatico.ca.

34th International Congress of Physiological Sciences

Christchurch, New Zealand, 26-31 August 2001.
 Contact: The Conference Company, PO Box 90-040, Auckland, New Zealand (Fax: +64-9-3601242; Email: info@tcc.co.nz; Web: <http://www.iups2001.org.nz>).

11th International Society for Chromaffin Cell Biology Meeting

San Diego, CA, USA, 3-11 September 2001.
 Contact: Dan O'Connor, Department of Medicine and Center for Molecular Genetics, University of California, 3350 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego, CA 92161-9111H, USA (Tel: +1-858-5528585 ext 7373 (office), 2632 (lab); Fax: +1-858-6426331 (office), +1-858-6426425 (lab); Email: doconnor@ucsc.edu; Web: <http://medicine.ucsd.edu/hypertension> or <http://elcapitan.ucsd.edu/hyper/>).

Joint Meeting of the British Pharmacological Society and Physiological Society

Bristol, UK, 5-7 September 2001.
 Contact: The Physiological Society, Department of Biomedical Science, The University of Sheffield, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2TN, UK (Tel: +44-114-2222390; Email: meetings@physoc.org).

Endocrine Nurse Training Course

Glasgow, UK, 11-13 September 2001.
 Contact: Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org; Web: <http://www.endocrinology.org>).

28th Meeting of the British Society for Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes

Sheffield, UK, 13-14 September 2001.
 Contact: BioScientifica Ltd, 16 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org; Web: <http://www.bioscientifica.com/#Confs>).

Thyroid and Graves Ophthalmopathy Symposium

Graz, Austria, 21-22 September 2001.
 Contact: S Ramschak-Schwarzer (Tel: +43-316-3852383; Fax: +43-316-3853428; Email: sigrid.ramschak-schwarzer@klinikum-graz.at).

4th Biennial Congress of the European Society for Sexual and Impotence Research

Rome, Italy, 30 September-3 October 2001.
 Contact: SC Studio Congressi, Via F Ferrara 40, 00191 Rome, Italy (Tel: +39-06-3290250; Fax: +39-06-36306897; Email: sc.congressi@agora.stm.it; Web: <http://www.essir2001.it>).

6th International Congress on Endocrine Disorders

Tehran, Iran, 5-9 October 2001.
 Contact: Fereidoun Azizi, PO Box 19395-4763, Tehran, Iran (Tel: +98-21-2416282; Fax: +98-21-2416264; Email: iced@erc-iran.com; Web: <http://www.erc-iran.com/iced>).

Clinical Endocrinology Update: 2001

Illinois, USA, 7-10 October 2001.
 Contact: Beverly Glover, Administrative Assistant, Meetings, The Endocrine Society, 4350 East West Highway, Suite 500, Bethesda, MD 20814-4410, USA (Tel: +1-301-9410220; Fax: +1-301-9410259).

American Society of Bone and Mineral Research

Phoenix, AZ, USA, 12-16 October 2001.
 Tel: +1-202-8571161; Fax: +1-202-2234579; Email: asbmr@dc.sba.com.

57th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM 2001)

Orlando, FL, USA, 20-25 October 2001.
 Contact: ASRM, 1209 Montgomery Highway, Birmingham, AL 35216-2809, USA (Tel: +1-205-9785000; Fax: +1-205-9785018; Email: asrm@asrm.org).

192nd Meeting of the Society for Endocrinology

London, UK, 3-4 December 2001.
 Contact: Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org; Web: <http://www.endocrinology.org>).

8th World Congress on Endometriosis

San Diego, CA, USA, 24-27 February 2002.
 Contact: ASRM, 1209 Montgomery Highway, Birmingham, AL 35216-2809, USA (Tel: +1-205-9785000; Fax: +1-205-9785018; Email: asrm@asrm.org).

BES 2002 - 21st Joint Meeting of the British Endocrine Societies

Harrogate, UK, 8-11 April 2002.
 Contact: British Endocrine Societies, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org; Web: <http://www.endocrinology.org>).

29th European Symposium on Calcified Tissues

Zagreb, Croatia, 25-29 May 2002.
 Contact: Tel: +44-1453-549929; Fax: +44-1453-548919; Email: admin@ectsoc.org; Web: <http://www.ectsoc.org>.

ENDO 2002: 84th Annual Meeting

San Francisco, CA, USA, 19-22 June 2002.
 Contact: Beverly Glover, Administrative Assistant, Meetings, The Endocrine Society, 4350 East West Highway, Suite 500, Bethesda, MD 20814-4410, USA (Tel: +1-301-9410220; Fax: +1-301-9410259).

2001
**SUMMER
 SCHOOL**



9-13 July 2001, York

Come to historic York for the Society's second Summer School, which will include:

Young Endocrinologists Introductory Day (9 July)

Molecular Endocrinology Workshop (10 July)

Advanced Endocrine Course (11-12 July)

Clinical Practice Day (13 July)

Grants of up to £150 are available to enable Young Endocrinologists to attend

Details available from Ann Lloyd in the Bristol office (Email: ann.lloyd@endocrinology.org)





Publishing in Partnership

You may not realise that the Society for Endocrinology can work in partnership with other societies through BioScientifica, for example, by publishing their journals on their behalf. If you are involved with a society who currently works with a commercial publisher, consider talking to us about the potential for collaboration.

Our aim is partnership between non-profit organisations. We can be more flexible than some publishers (e.g. regarding page budgets).

Our other strengths include:

- our close contact with academics in the life sciences
- our simple and cost-effective electronic publishing service, which provides facilities comparable with most leading publishers
- experience with our own electronic journals, whose substantial usage exceeds many commercial e-publishing web sites
- the ability to work with external e-publishing services, such as HighWire
- development of an individual promotion plan for each journal, with more specific promotion of mature titles than most publishers
- our competitive prices!

Journal publishing faces a more uncertain future now than ever before. Societies may no longer be able to derive surpluses from their journals to fund their other activities. At the extreme, proposals by the NIH for all articles to be free on the web (funded by submission and peer review charges) would make a major difference. We are excellently positioned to help other societies assess the risks and plan for the future. This is true across the whole range of a society's activities.

For more details contact:

Sue Thorn (sue.thorn@endocrinology.org) or
Steve Byford (steve.byford@endocrinology.org) or
Tom Parkhill (tom.parkhill@endocrinology.org)
at the Bristol office.



BioScientifica
www.bioscientifica.com

CASE STUDY

We have published *European Journal of Endocrinology* in this way since 1997. We have beaten our target publication time on

most issues, and its impact factor has increased from 1.695 in 1996 to 2.421 in 1999 (clearly other factors also affect this). The full text of the journal was on the web soon after we took over publication, and the journal receives more web traffic than many larger titles. *European Journal of Endocrinology* is the official journal of the European Federation of Endocrine Societies, and they are so pleased with our work that they have also asked us to publish their newsletter, *EFES News*, and to set up and run the EFES web site.

